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TOP SECRET

EUROPE

1. **GERMANY: French view on Berlin crisis**--A high official of the French Foreign Office has expressed to US Ambassador Caffery his personal views that: (a) the western powers erred seriously when the Berlin crisis first arose by overstressing the importance of remaining in the city and announcing that they would remain at all costs; (b) Berlin is not in fact "any more quadripartite" than western Germany, in which quadripartite control has long been abandoned; and (c) in the face of aggressive Soviet action, the western powers would encounter almost insuperable difficulties in Berlin and, even if able to maintain military and governmental forces, they could not avoid a decline in prestige through remaining there.

(CIA Comment: CIA believes that even though a slight decline in prestige of the western powers would result from their remaining in Berlin in the face of Soviet aggressive action, such a loss would be far less than that they would suffer through a withdrawal. Moreover, any apparent weakening of tripartite solidarity on the Berlin situation would greatly reinforce Soviet determination to drive the western powers from the city.)

2. **GREECE: UNSCOB concern over Greek-Bulgarian negotiations**--A member of the US delegation to the UN Special Committee on the Balkans (UNSCOB) expresses the view that the UN Secretary General gave at least tacit concurrence to Satellite non-recognition of UNSCOB by failing to consult UNSCOB before accepting Bulgaria's announcement of its willingness to negotiate with the Greek Government for the resumption of diplomatic relations. The representative feels that if the present Greek Army offensive is successful, the USSR will be able at the September General Assembly meeting to advocate the complete suppression of UNSCOB on the grounds that "a UN watchdog" is unnecessary because: (a) the army's victory proves that the Satellites are not aiding the guerrillas; (b) the initiative taken by Bulgaria in proposing negotiations with the Greek Government is indicative of its peaceful intentions; (c) the Greek Army itself is in a position to seal the northern border; and (d) negotiations are already being conducted without UNSCOB assistance.

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NEAR EAST-AFRICA

3. **PALESTINE: Jewish extremists increasingly active--US Consulate General Jerusalem reports that during the past few days Irgun Zvai Leumi and the Stern Gang (Jewish extremist groups) have become increasingly active in Jerusalem. Both groups have, in contravention of the UN truce terms, brought reinforcements, arms, and supplies into the city and have taken over strategic areas which they are converting into fortified enclaves. The Consulate General has learned from various sources that the USSR is providing the Stern Gang with arms and money through the Satellites, particularly Poland. These sources also believe that the USSR will make every effort to increase its support as an effective means of gaining a foothold for subversive activities in Israel. The Consulate General feels that the Jewish extremists may become increasingly embarrassing to the Israeli authorities and may attempt to thwart any effort to settle in a reasonable way the present Jewish-Arab impasse.**

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